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Editorial

THE NASHVILLE MEETING

The fourth annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South was held at Nashville on April 17 and 18. In the number of those present, the quality of the papers, and the efficiency of the local committee the meeting equaled any that has yet been held.

Of the papers, summaries of which have already been published in the *Journal*, we cannot speak in detail. They ranged from second-year Latin to problems for original research. Their general average was distinctly high: the subjects were important, the treatment carefully thought out, and the papers well presented. Should any criticism be made, it would probably be that in the elaboration of their own views some of the speakers or readers showed a tendency to forget the other side of the question. This was especially noticeable in those papers which dealt with methods of teaching. Those who favored a rigid grammatical training were inclined to disparage unduly the claims of those who believe in the use of archaeological and other illustrative material, while those who advocated a broader outlook seemed to forget the necessity of accuracy in forms and constructions. Both sides of the study are good and each has its place. In the earlier part of the course, as it seems to us, the chief emphasis should be laid upon the purely linguistic side. A strict training in forms and syntax is absolutely essential. On the other hand, as the student advances, more and more illustrative material can be used with advantage, and more and more of the literary and historical background of the author or subject can be painted in.

The admirable arrangements made for the thorough discussion of each paper were successfully carried out. The plan demonstrated its usefulness and will, we hope, be adopted by subsequent programme committees. So far as we observed, there is but one danger in the system, namely that the discussion may become too long and go too deeply into the minutiae of the subject. Leaders of the discussion should be assigned only a few minutes and should be kept by the chairman within their time and within their subject. Otherwise, no matter how good the papers or the discussions are, there is danger of the sessions becoming congested and the programme disorganized.

The address on "Classical Training" by the Hon. Eben Alexander was a skilful presentation of the strongest arguments that can be made for the study of the classics. The broad lines upon which the speaker treated his subject and some unusually happy quotations and shrewd comments upon them combined to make the address a particularly felicitous one.

The thanks of the Association are due to the local universities and to the Woman's Association of the University of Nashville for their kindness in providing so amply for the entertainment of the visiting members. After Dr. Alexander's address on Friday afternoon a reception was held in the Parthenon, and on Saturday a luncheon, almost dangerous as a precedent in its gastronomic excellence, was given in the Ewing Gymnasium of the University of Nashville.

Professor A. T. Walker, of the University of Kansas, was elected president; Professor E. D. Wright, of Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis., first vice-president; Professor T. C. Burgess, Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Ill., secretary-treasurer. The names of the other officers of the Association and the names of the new states admitted are given on the third page of the cover of this number. Two important resolutions—one dealing with the formation of state sections in the Association, the other recommending the appointment of a commission to formulate the aims and purposes of classical studies—were presented by Professor F. C. Eastman of the University of Iowa, and adopted. The details of these resolutions will be discussed in the next number of the *Journal*.